

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings.

American Medical Association, New York, June 10-14, 1940. Olin West, M. D., Secretary, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

California Medical Association, Hotel del Coronado, Coronado, May 6-9, 1940. George H. Kress, M. D., Secretary, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco.

Association of Western Hospitals, Hotel Biltmore, Los Angeles, April 8-11, 1940. Thomas F. Clark, Executive Secretary, 1182 Market Street, San Francisco.

Medical Broadcasts.*

American Medical Association Broadcasts: "Medicine in the News."—The American Medical Association and the National Broadcasting Company have announced "Medicine in the News," on timely topics from medical news of the week. Thursdays, 4:30 p. m., Eastern standard time (1:30 p. m., Pacific standard time), Blue Network, coast to coast; thirty weeks; opened on November 2, 1939; facts, drama, entertainment, music.

Pacific States:

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|------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| KECA | Los Angeles | KTMS | Santa Barbara |
| KFSD | San Diego | KEX | Portland |
| KGO | San Francisco | KJR | Seattle |
| | KGA | Spokane | |

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Los Angeles County Medical Association.

The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of February is as follows:

Saturday, February 3—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 10:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Wednesday, February 7—KECA, 11:15 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, February 10—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 10:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Wednesday, February 14—KECA, 11:15 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, February 17—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 10:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Wednesday, February 21—KECA, 11:15 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, February 24—KFI, 9:45 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 10:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Wednesday, February 28—KECA, 11:15 a. m., The Road of Health.

Bacteriophage Research Aided by Grant from Foundation.—A thirteen-year-old study of bacteriophage, aimed at learning more about the filterable viruses which cause such diseases as infantile paralysis, yellow fever, and smallpox, has been rescued from possible termination by a grant of \$2,430 from the John and Mary R. Markle Foundation, New York City, it was announced recently by the Regents of the University of California.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

Cyclotron: Many Uses of Radio-Active Substances Told.—The many uses to which the University of California cyclotron are being put in the effort of science to combat human diseases and build a sturdier and more productive plant life, have been outlined by Dr. John Lawrence, who directs the distribution of the cyclotron's output.

The greater portion of this output appears to be going toward medical uses, both clinical and experimental, Doctor Lawrence's paper shows. The radio-active forms of sodium, chlorine, potassium, bromine, and iodine are being used on patients suffering from Cushing's disease, Addison's disease, and various forms of thyroid disease. Radio-active sodium, taken in solution by mouth, is capable of reaching the fingers within two minutes, and being registered there by the Geiger counter.

Radio-active phosphorus appears to be the most extensively used radio-isotope. It can be made in large quantities in the cyclotron and is used both as a tracer and therapeutic agent. It has accounted for differences in the phospholipid metabolism of different kinds of animal tumors, and its range extends to the teeth where it is achieving new determinations in phosphorus absorption.

In the treatment of certain malignancies it has been found that the dangers of internal radium therapy can be avoided by the use of radio-active phosphorus, and results thus far tend to show that it will prove a valuable adjunct in the treatment of such malignancies. Radio-iron is proving its worth, experimentally at least, in the treatment of pernicious anemia, this work being carried on at the University of Rochester.

While Doctor Lawrence does not enlarge upon the uses of these radio-active substances in plant life, they are many and varied. A significant soil test is being made with radio-active phosphorus by the University of Hawaii. The use of radio-active carbon by the University of California department of chemistry is throwing new life on the formation and composition of plant molecules, an indispensable factor in both plant and animal life.

Study of Nursing Care: California State Nurses' Association.—The California State Nurses' Association is making a survey of resources in the state for nursing services, as a part of a nation-wide study being conducted by the American Nurses' Association.

This survey is being made to determine what facilities are available and how these are being used to meet the needs for nursing care in each community.

Hospitals, physicians, registries, and the public will be asked to assist with the study by filling in short questionnaires which will provide information as to the various classes of workers employed in caring for the sick and infirm in hospitals, related institutions, and homes.

There has long been a need for more facts on provisions for nursing service. It is hoped this information will be secured through the survey and may serve as a guide in future plans to make nursing services more readily available.

Questionnaires will be mailed to physicians early in February.

A summary of the findings will be made available for the county medical societies whose members participate in the study.

Van Meter Prize Award on Thyroid Gland Problems.

The American Association for the Study of Goiter again offers the Van Meter Prize Award of Three Hundred Dollars and two honorable mentions for the best essays submitted concerning the original work on problems related to the thyroid gland. The award will be made at the annual meeting of the Association which will be held at Rochester, Minnesota, on April 15, 16, and 17, provided essays of sufficient merit are presented in competition.

The competing essays may cover either clinical or research investigations; should not exceed three thousand words in length; must be presented in English; and a type-written double-spaced copy sent to the corresponding secretary, Dr. W. Blair Mosser, 133 Biddle Street, Kane, Pennsylvania, not later than March 15.

Industrial and Public Health Nursing Courses.—The

University of California Extension Division announces a new course in industrial hygiene, planned primarily for graduate nurses engaged or interested in industrial or public health nursing, to begin on Wednesday, March 6, at 7 p. m., at the Oakland Extension Center, 1730 Franklin Street.

Dr. Robert T. Legge, formerly University physician and in charge of Cowell Memorial Hospital at the University of California, will be in charge of the course and will cover the various health hazards in industry and the organization of industrial health measures.

The course will consist of fifteen weekly two-hour sessions. The enrollment fee for the course is \$12. An annual registration fee of \$1 is charged for the first course taken during the academic year. No fee is necessary for additional courses.

National Conference on Medical Service.—The 1940

program of the National Conference on Medical Service (formerly Northwest Regional Conference) will afford an opportunity for doctors of medicine throughout the United States to exchange ideas and obtain sound practical information on medical economics for the good of the profession and the public.

At the fourteenth annual meeting, to be held at the Palmer House, Chicago, Sunday, February 11, 10 a. m. to 4:30 p. m., a round-table on "Group Medical Care and Group Hospitalization Programs" will be presented. Invited to participate are: Doctors R. L. Sensenich, South Bend, Indiana; Carl F. Vohs, St. Louis, Missouri; Henry R. Carstens, Detroit; George H. Kress, San Francisco; and D. H. McA. Pyle of New York City.

"Allocation of Federal Funds to States" will be presented by Dr. R. G. Leland of the American Medical Association Bureau of Medical Economics. The discussion leader on this topic will be Dr. William F. Braasch of Rochester, Minnesota.

Dr. Morris Fishbein and Dr. Edward J. McCormick of Toledo will discuss "Effective Public Relations."

For the round-table on "Medical Welfare Programs" the following have been invited to participate; Doctors Hilton S. Read, Atlantic City; C. H. Phifer, Chicago; Creighton Barker, New Haven, Connecticut; Ernest E. Shaw, Indianola, Iowa; and R. C. Williams, Washington, D. C.

Paul G. Hoffman, President of the Studebaker Corporation, has been invited as guest speaker at the noonday dinner meeting.

All members of the American Medical Association are cordially invited to attend the Conference. No registration fee or dues.

Dr. L. Fernald Foster of Bay City, Michigan, is president, and Dr. Forest L. Loveland of Topeka, Kansas, is secretary of the Conference.

American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.—

The general oral and pathological examinations (Part II) for all candidates (Groups A and B) will be conducted by the entire Board, meeting in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on June 8, 9, 10, and 11, 1940, immediately prior to the annual meeting of the American Medical Association in New York City.

Application for admission to Group A, Part II, examinations must be on file in the secretary's office not later than March 15, 1940. Formal notice of the time and place of these examinations will be sent each candidate several weeks in advance of the examination dates. Group A, Part II, candidates will be examined on June 8 and 9, and Group B, Part II, on June 10 and 11, 1940.

For further information and application blanks, address Dr. Paul Titus, Secretary, 1015 Highland Building, Pittsburgh, (6) Pennsylvania.

Public Health League of California.—The annual

meeting of the Northern District of the Public Health League of California was held on Thursday evening, February 8, at the Veneto Restaurant, 389 Bay Street, in San Francisco.

The Nominating Committee submitted the following recommendations for officers of the Northern District: Glenn F. Cushman, M.D., president; Ernest Sloman, D.D.S., vice-president; Francis Rochex, M.D., Secretary; Chester W. Johnson, D.D.S., treasurer, all of San Francisco.

Councilors (7): George I. Dawson, M.D., Napa; Harry B. Hambly, D.D.S., San Francisco; Hans L. Hartman, M.D., Modesto; Homer E. Marston, M.D., San Rafael; John H. Pettis, M.D., Fresno; Mervyn L. Perkins, D.D.S., San Francisco; David A. Wood, M.D., San Francisco.

Auditor: Henry Gibbons, III, M.D., San Francisco.

American College of Surgeons.—The western sectional

meeting was held in Los Angeles on January 29, 30, and 31.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

Verne C. Hunt, chairman, Los Angeles; E. Eric Larson, secretary, Los Angeles; Harold L. Thompson, assistant secretary, Los Angeles.

CHAIRMEN OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Advisory.—William H. Kiger, Edward M. Pallette, Clarence G. Toland.

Scientific Exhibits.—Alvin G. Foord.

Program.—Charles T. Sturgeon.

Clinics.—Wayland A. Morrison.

Cancer.—Maurice Kahn.

Fractures.—John Dunlop.

Eye.—A. Ray Irvine.

Ear, Nose and Throat.—J. MacKenzie Brown.

Public Relations.—E. Vincent Askey, Frank J. Breslin, Paul A. Quaintance, Mr. Stanley K. Cochems.

Registration.—Edward C. Pallette.

Eleven local hospital staffs arranged for surgical clinics and pathological conferences. A most extensive program of group conferences and panel discussions was offered. The group of distinguished surgeons and hospital authorities who participated in the program included:

Frank E. Adair, New York; Millard F. Arbuckle, St. Louis; Harold Brunn, San Francisco; Thomas O. Burger, San Diego; Bowman C. Crowell, Chicago; Ray K. Dally, Houston; Claude F. Dixon, Rochester, Minnesota; Charles A. Dukes, Oakland; E. R. Dumke, Ogden, Utah; Harold Earnheart, Chicago; William J. Engel, Cleveland; Paul C. Flothow, Seattle; Edwin C. Hamblen, Durham, North Carolina; Emile Holman, San Francisco; Edward Jackson, Denver; Herman W. Johnson, Houston; Malcolm T. MacEachern, Chicago; John O. McReynolds, Dallas; Joseph L. McCool, San Francisco; George P. Muller, Philadelphia; Howard C. Naffziger, San Francisco; E. Payne Palmer, Phoenix; Max Minor Peet, Ann Arbor; George W. Pierce, San Francisco; Ralph Richards, Salt Lake City; A. D. Ruedemann, Cleveland; Charles L. Scudder, Boston; James L. Stewart, Boise; Horace J. Whitacre, Tacoma; John Homer Woolsey, Woodland.

Infantile Paralysis Research Grant Made to University of California.—An investigation of the exact relationship between human infantile paralysis and a disease of farm stock known as equine encephalomyelitis is to be undertaken at the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research on the San Francisco campus of the University of California. In making this announcement, President Robert G. Sproul made it known that the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc., has donated \$13,800 for the work, about one-fifth of the funds it has available for this year.

Microfilm Sets of Periodicals.—The Committee on Scientific Aids to Learning, President Conant of Harvard, chairman, has made a grant to cover the cost of making a microfilm master negative, on the most expensive film, of sets of volumes of scientific and learned journals.

This permits the nonprofit Bibliofilm Service to supply microfilm copies at the sole positive copy cost, namely, one cent per page for odd volumes, or a special rate of one-half cent per page for any properly copyable ten or more consecutive volumes.

The number of pages will be estimated on request to Bibliofilm Service, care of United States Department of Agriculture Library, Washington, D. C.

New York University: Course in Syphilis.—The next session of the Postgraduate Course in Syphilis at New York University College of Medicine will start on January 29 and will continue for eight weeks on a full-time basis. As the work will be given under grants from the United States Public Health Service and the New York State Department of Health, no tuition fee is to be charged.

The course will include didactic and clinical work in the pathology, diagnosis, and treatment of syphilis, prenatal and congenital syphilis, laboratory procedures, and control measures. The public-health aspects of the disease will also be presented, and there will be opportunity for field work.

Graduates of recognized medical schools are eligible for admission on approval by the committee in charge. Further details may be obtained from the office of the assistant dean, 477 First Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Trudeau School of Tuberculosis.—The Trudeau School of Tuberculosis, which for twenty-five years has been held usually in May and June of each year, will present its 1940 session beginning on September 9 and closing on October 4 at Saranac Lake, with the supplementary (and optional) course at Bellevue Hospital, New York City, October 7 to 19.

The change has been made, with regret, to avoid conflict with the important annual meetings of the National Tuberculosis Association, American Association for Thoracic Surgery and American Medical Association, all of which will be held in June when the Trudeau School course would normally be presented. It will permit prospective students, as well as members of the faculty of the School at Saranac Lake and in New York, to attend the medical meetings without interference by the work of the Trudeau School.

Enrollments for the September-October session are now being received. Application should be made to Roy Dayton, Secretary, Saranac Lake, New York.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

Birthday Gift*

The President is going to reverse the usual order this year and send Congress a gift on his birthday, January 30.

It will consist of a special message urging a \$10,000,000 appropriation for the construction of twenty-five hospitals in various parts of the country to be designated by the Public Health Service and the American Medical Association. He went out of his way to choose his birthday to submit this plan, and will describe it as the first step in an ultimate nation-wide health insurance program.

The President also will emphasize in his message that while the Federal Government should take the initiative in building the hospitals, the localities must maintain them.

Surgeon General Thomas Parran tried to persuade him to recommend a certain amount of Federal aid for upkeep. Parran proposed \$1 per day per patient. But Roosevelt rejected this.

"Nope, that's out," he told the Interdepartmental Health Program Committee headed by Miss Josephine Roche. "It's all right for the Government to build them, but the localities must operate them. We want to tie the localities directly up to these hospitals so that they will have a personal interest in them."

Note: Significantly, at the conclusion of the conference the President directed Miss Roche to continue work on formulating a national health insurance program, even though there is no chance of passing anything of this nature at the present session of Congress.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, January 26, 1940.

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Forced Sickness Insurance Opposed by Mrs. Roosevelt

Washington, January 9.—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who has frequently called attention to the health needs of the underprivileged, said yesterday she is opposed to compulsory sickness insurance.

Any medical program enacted by Congress should be tried out on a voluntary basis before the American people are asked to approve it, the President's wife declared. She said she was generally opposed to anything "compulsory," requiring any group to do something of which it does not approve. . . .

There are no funds earmarked in the new 1941 Federal budget for either the Wagner program or the President's more modest proposal for Federal construction of medical centers in counties where hospital facilities are now lacking. Mr. Roosevelt, however, has explained that money for his program could be found in the general public work fund. . . .

The President's wife told reporters she hoped very much that no program would be adopted by Congress until it has broad professional backing and does not represent only one group.

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Birth Control Survey†

Seventy-Seven Per Cent Approve, Institute Says

Princeton, N. J., January 25.—With the adoption by South Carolina of a plan for birth-control education as a regular part of its public health service, the American Institute of Public Opinion has conducted a survey to test public sentiment on extending this plan elsewhere.

Although birth-control clinics sponsored by private organizations have been operating in many states, South Carolina is the second state to furnish birth-control information in its public health clinics, and a formal announcement was made this week at the annual meeting in New York of the Birth Control Federation. The birth-control education plan was first adopted by North Carolina health clinics two years ago.

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State Pensions

Sacramento, January 31 (UP).—A total of 133,949 aged persons, 39,560 needy children, and 6,846 blind persons received Social Security payments amounting to \$5,460,399 during December, Director of Social Welfare Martha A. Chickering reported today.

In San Francisco County 10,185 aged, 3,345 children, and 517 blind received a total of \$439,539.

For the state as a whole, old-age pension payments averaged \$32.97; allotments to children, \$18.05; and to the blind, \$48.17. The state, counties, and Federal Government cooperate in the Social Security payments.

* By Drew Pearson and Robert S. Allen.

† By George Gallup, Director, American Institute of Public Opinion.